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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 23 February 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In follow-up of my letter of 15 February 2012 (A/ES-10/545-S/2012/90), I must draw your attention to recent provocations by Israel, the occupying Power, declaring further construction of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The illegal construction and expansion of Israeli settlements already under way and the approval of plans for even more massive construction constitute deliberate breaches by the occupying Power of its obligations under international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, and blatant defiance of the international community's demands for a complete cessation of all such illegal actions. Moreover, as is universally recognized, such illegal actions are paradoxical to, and gravely undermine, the two-State solution to this conflict.

Yesterday, 22 February 2012, Israel announced the approval of at least 600 more units in the illegal settlement of "Shilo", which is located deep in the Occupied West Bank, between the cities of Ramallah and Nablus. It was also revealed yesterday that the occupying Power has given approval to the attempts to retroactively "legalize" another 200 units in the illegal "Shvut Rachel" settlement, which is adjacent to the aforementioned settlement. With every inch of Palestinian land stolen by the occupying Power and every single stone laid for illegally settling Israel's civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, it becomes clearer and clearer that Israel is not interested in the kind of peace settlement endorsed by the international community as a just and lasting settlement, i.e., the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, an historic compromise accepted decades ago by the Palestinian leadership. Moreover, such actions belie Israel's claims regarding its seriousness vis-à-vis the peace process, the very objectives, principles and spirit of which it totally contradicts with such illegal colonial practices.

These deplorable actions must be roundly condemned by the international community and more pressure must be exerted on Israel, the occupying Power, to

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cease these actions forthwith. Israel must be held accountable to its legal obligations as well as to its responsibilities and commitments under the Quartet road map, which oblige it to completely freeze its settlement activities and to dismantle all settlement "outposts". The occupying Power cannot continue to so flagrantly and wilfully violate these obligations without consequence, for this will only result in the further deterioration of the situation on the ground, the further confiscation of Palestinian land and impairment of the Territory's contiguity, and the further decline of the viability of the two-State solution for peace.

While reassured by the strong statements of condemnation against these most recent illegal Israeli actions and provocations, we believe that such statements must be accompanied by serious actions and measures to stem the precipitous rise in tensions and deterioration of the situation on the ground that these actions are causing. We thus renew our appeal to the international community, including the Security Council, to act consistent with international law and United Nations resolutions to bring a halt to this destructive Israeli settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, respect international law and the global calls in this regard.

Regrettably, at the same time, with the support and acquiescence of the Government of Israel, extremist settlers continue their rampage throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, provoking, inciting and inflaming religious sensitivities between the two sides. Provocations continue to be made against Al-Haram Al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary) and settlers continue to vandalize holy sites. The latest such incident involved a church in Jerusalem, the Baptist Narkis Street Congregation, on which such deplorable and hate-filled slogans such as "Death to Christianity" and profanity about Jesus Christ were sprayed on the walls of the church. This provocative incident follows the vandalism earlier this month, on 7 February, of the Monastery of the Cross, on which "Death to Christians" was sprayed, and follows several such attacks on mosques in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including similar acts of defacement as well as arson. These actions must be condemned and must be seriously addressed, for the continuation of such provocations can only lead to further destabilization of the situation with far-reaching consequences.

I must also draw your attention to the unstable, deplorable situation that persists in the occupied Gaza Strip due to ongoing Israeli military attacks and the illegal blockade, which is nearing its fifth year. On Sunday, 19 February, the Israeli occupying forces launched more air strikes against Gaza, attacking the Zaitoun and Tuffah neighbourhoods in Gaza City, wounding a one-year-old boy, Muhammad Al-Zaharna, along with five other civilians, and causing destruction to Al-Zaharna's home and to an elementary school in the neighbourhood. Such air strikes are regularly carried out by the occupying Power with barely a word of condemnation by the international community, surely fuelling its impunity.

In addition to enduring such traumatizing attacks, the Palestinian people in Gaza continue to suffer the impact of the Israeli blockade, including continued shortages of essential materials, including medical, construction and humanitarian supplies. Fuel shortages in Gaza have especially affected the population in the recent period, impairing the functioning of households and businesses and vital public services, particularly hospitals, endangering the lives of patients. The fuel shortage has been compounded by the destruction of power plants by the occupying

Power, leaving the entire Palestinian civilian population in the area dependent on the only running power plant, which itself is in disrepair and under tremendous pressure to provide needed electricity.

Lastly, I must refer to the occupying Power's continued arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians in the recent period, with many being seized from their homes in the middle of the night by the occupying forces. This has included the re-arrest, on 16 February, of a Palestinian woman, Haneh Shalabi, who had been released in the prisoner exchange in October 2011. Moreover, while we express our profound relief that the plight of the Palestinian man, Khader Adnan — who, as conveyed in my letter of 15 February 2012, has been held by Israel in administrative detention without charge since 17 December 2011 and who had been on hunger strike for 66 days to protest his unlawful, arbitrary detention by Israel — has been addressed and that his hunger strike has ended, we believe that the honourable example of Mr. Adnan's non-violent, peaceful resistance in protest of the illegal practice of administrative detention by the occupying Power, which has been used against thousands of Palestinian civilians over the nearly 45 years of Israel's occupation, must arouse the international community's conscience and compel it to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, cease this and all other such illegal practices by which it continues to imprison, detain and severely abuse Palestinian civilians, including children.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 417 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 15 February 2012 (A/ES-10/545-S/2012/90) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 24 February 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I must draw your urgent attention to the dangerously rising tensions in Occupied East Jerusalem. The illegal policies and the constant provocations and incitement by Israel, the occupying Power, and its extremist settlers against the Palestinian people, their land and their holy places continue to exacerbate tensions and religious sensitivities between the two sides, risking further destabilization of an already fragile situation on the ground.

In this regard, I must inform you of the extremely worrying developments today, 24 February, at Al-Haram Al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary) in Occupied East Jerusalem, in which Israeli occupying forces stormed the holy compound and used excessive force against worshippers. The incidents took place after the Friday noon prayers at Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which houses Al-Aqsa Mosque and Qubbat Al-Sakhra (the Dome of the Rock), when hundreds of Palestinian worshippers began a demonstration in protest of the recent threats and declared attempts by Jewish extremists to enter the holy compound. According to reports, the Israeli occupying forces unleashed tear gas, stun grenades, sound bombs and rubber bullets against the demonstrators, causing fear and panic to spread among them. Medics with the Red Crescent Society have reported that around 30 Palestinians were injured. In addition, at least 13 Palestinians are said to have been detained by the occupying forces.

The international community must pay heed to the escalation of tensions and confrontations in and around Al-Haram Al-Sharif, since the potential for a refuelling of the cycle of violence as a result of such provocations is very real. As noted in recent prior letters, the holy compound and other Muslim and Christian holy sites throughout Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory continue to be subjected to threats, incitement and desecration by extremist Israeli settlers as well as constant provocations by right-wing Israeli officials, and this has led to escalating concerns among the Palestinian people and

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their leadership about the potential for further crisis in this most sensitive area. Recent threats against Al-Haram Al-Sharif have included postings on an extremist Jewish website threatening a mass incursion into the holy compound to "exercise Jewish sovereignty" over the area. Such incitement has been coupled by calls by right-wing Israeli leaders for Jews to come to the compound to assert their claims over it, with flyers recently distributed imploring them to "purify the site from the enemies of Israel" as well as advocating for the destruction of any Muslim buildings there.

We believe that all such acts of incitement and desecration against holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as acts of the ongoing, deliberate provocations against the Palestinian people by the occupying Power, whether it be by the Government of Israel, its occupying forces or its illegal settlers, warrant serious and immediate attention by the international community, including by the Security Council, in line with its primary duty under the Charter to maintain international peace and security. We call on the international community to act with urgency and responsibility to ensure the de-escalation of this perilous situation in Occupied East Jerusalem and to bring a halt to the occupying Power's violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, which are gravely impacting the Palestinian people in innumerable ways and which are seriously jeopardizing the prospects for realizing a peaceful and just settlement on the basis of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions and in accordance with the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.

Before concluding, I regret to also inform you of the killing today of a young Palestinian man, Tal'at Ramia, age 25, by Israel, the occupying Power. Ramia was wounded by Israeli gunfire, which hit him in the chest, during a protest that was held near the Qalandia checkpoint erected by Israel between Al-Ram and Ramallah. He later died in emergency surgery, and five other Palestinians were also wounded by the occupying forces, which fired tear gas as well as live and rubber bullets at the protesters. Today also witnessed more violence by the occupying Power against Palestinian civilians in Al-Khalil who had been peacefully demonstrating at a commemoration of the anniversary of a 1994 attack by an extremist Israeli settler against Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi (The Ibrahimi Mosque) in Al-Khalil, in which 29 Palestinians were brutally murdered while at prayer. The Israeli occupying forces fired tear gas and sound bombs, injuring dozens of civilians, 70 of whom suffered from the inhalation of foul-smelling chemicals that were also sprayed at the protesters. At least six Palestinians were also detained by the occupying forces. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held responsible for the death and injury of these Palestinians caused by its deliberate use of violence and brutality against the Palestinian civilian population under its military occupation and its blatant disregard for human rights and international humanitarian law requiring the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 418 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 23 February 2012 (A/ES-10/546-S/2012/111) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian

people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 11 March 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I must draw your urgent attention to the escalation of deadly violence and terror being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip in recent days. In grave violation of the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the occupying Power has been carrying out a series of military strikes, including extrajudicial killings and military assaults, against civilians and civilian areas that have led in the past few days to the killing of at least 18 Palestinians, among them a 12-year-old boy, and the wounding of dozens of other civilians, including women and children, many of whom remain in serious condition.

The extremely fragile situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, is worsening and risks further destabilization as a result of this Israeli aggression and its incessant illegal actions against the Palestinian civilian population. We call on the international community, particularly the Security Council, to uphold its obligations under the Charter and under international law, including international humanitarian law, as it pertains to the rights and protection of civilians in armed conflict, including foreign occupation. The Palestinian people cannot remain the exception to this responsibility to protect civilians from such war crimes and atrocities.

The most recent Israeli attacks against the Gaza Strip involve Israel's extrajudicial killing, i.e., targeted assassination, of two Palestinian men, Zuhair Al-Qaisy and Mahmoud Hanani, on Friday, 9 March, in a military air strike on the vehicle in which the men were riding in Gaza City. The deliberate assassination of those men was followed by a series of air strikes by the Israeli occupying forces against other areas in the Gaza Strip throughout Saturday, 10 March, including missile strikes by warplanes on Beit Lahiya, Deir Al-Balah and the Shuja'iya neighbourhood

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of Gaza City. The attacks resulted in the killing of another 10 Palestinians, with reports indicating that their bodies were torn to pieces by the missiles that struck them. These barbaric attacks by the occupying Power also resulted in the injury of at least 21 other Palestinians, among them several children and women, and three victims remain in critical condition.

Today, 11 March, Israel has continued to launch more attacks against the Gaza Strip from the dark early morning hours and throughout the day, causing more death, destruction and fear and trauma among the Palestinian civilian population. Air strikes have been deliberately launched with the aim of committing the extrajudicial execution of yet more Palestinians. A strike targeting a motorcycle travelling near Rabia Al-Adawiya school in Rafa, in the south of Gaza, killed Mahdi Abu Shawish.

This same vicious practice was carried out by an Israeli drone, which fired upon a motorcycle near Khan Younis, killing two other Palestinians, Hussein Barham Al-Breim and Mansour Kamal Abu Nuseira. In yet another attack, the Israeli occupying forces struck at the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, killing a young boy, Ayoub Useila, age 12, and wounding his 7-year-old cousin. Israeli warplanes also fired at an area in the Zaytoun neighbourhood of Gaza City, killing Ahmad Dieb Salim, age 24, in what clearly appears to be another extrajudicial killing. Also, a farmer in Gaza City, Adel Al-Issi, age 52, was killed by an Israeli missile fired from a warplane as he was tending to his field.

Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for these crimes of aggression against the Palestinian people. The international community, including the Security Council, must act forthwith to bring an immediate halt to this escalation of violence and to demand that Israel abide by its legal obligations under the Charter and as an occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention. International law, including humanitarian and human rights law, cannot be selectively applied when it comes to the Palestinian people, who continue to unjustly suffer under Israel's now nearly 45-year military occupation. The Palestinian people must be accorded the same rights and protections guaranteed by international law as all other peoples, and the international community, including the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, has the duty to ensure respect for those provisions of international humanitarian law that protect the rights, safety and well-being of a people living under foreign occupation. If Israel is allowed to continue to flagrantly and deliberately breach the law without accountability, this will only ensure the bolstering of its impunity and the further escalation of its crimes against the Palestinian people, with far-reaching consequences for the future of our people and the prospects for peace and stability to ever be realized. We thus call on the international community to act with urgency to address this crisis.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 419 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 February 2012 (A/ES-10/547-S/2012/116), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 12 March 2012 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Palestinian death toll continues to rise as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to traumatize and terrorize the more than 1.5 million Palestinians living in the besieged Gaza Strip. Since Friday, 9 March 2012, Israel's excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force has brutally killed 23 Palestinians, including children, women and elderly persons, and the number of injured has reached over 77, among them 20 children and 11 women. The tragic and continuous climb in the number of casualties is reflective of Israel's ongoing bloody onslaught against the Palestinian population in the Occupied Gaza Strip, in complete disregard and violation of all norms and rules of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Today, Monday, 12 March 2012, Israeli occupying forces launched vicious air strikes against the Gaza Strip for the fourth day in a row, killing an additional five Palestinians and injuring an additional 43, including 17 children and nine women. In one incident, Israeli occupying forces launched an air strike, directly attacking a number of students in North Gaza district, killing a 14-year-old and injuring another five students while they were playing in the playground near their school. Also today, Israeli occupying forces killed a 65-year-old man and his 30-year-old daughter in the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip as they were attempting to put out a fire in front of their home as a result of a previous Israeli air strike. In addition to death and injury, Palestinian residential homes, agricultural fields located near homes, schools and medical facilities were also destroyed as a result of indiscriminate Israeli air strikes.

The names of those Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip over the past four days by Israeli occupying forces are as follows: Zuhair Al-Qaisy, Mahmoud Hanaan, Mohammed Al-Ghamri, Faek Saad, Mu'tasim Hajjaj, Obeid Al-Gharabli, Mohammed Harara, Hazem Qareqe', Shadi Al-Saiqli, Mohammed Al-Moghari, Mahmoud Najm, Ahmad Hajjaj, Mahdi Abu Shawish, Mansour Abu Naseira, Hussein Al-Breim, Ahmad Dieb Salim, Ayoub Amer Useila (12 years old), Adel Al-Issi (60 years old), Hamadah Abu Mutlaq, Nayif Shaaban Qarmout (16 years

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